

CAPITAL GAINS

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, unless Congress acts, in 3 short years capital gains taxes will jump from 15 percent to 20 percent. Tax increases, as Democrats would allow, send the wrong messages to businesses facing economic uncertainty.

But what does this mean for working Americans? Simply put, fewer jobs as employers make tough decisions about hiring and retention. Some say tax relief costs too much, but history since 2002 shows otherwise. Lower rates have unlocked billions in gains, boosting Federal revenues far beyond Congress' projections which were made based on higher tax rates.

Lower taxes, higher revenues, and greater growth for our economy and for the American workers, Congress should keep the capital gains rates constant.

HONORING FORMER OREGONIAN
KEVIN BOSS

(Ms. HOOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New York Giants on their upset of the New England Patriots to win Super Bowl XLII.

With hometown pride in representing Monmouth and Philomath, I want to congratulate the Giants' starting tight end in the Super Bowl, Kevin Boss, a graduate of Philomath High and Western Oregon University.

Kevin was drafted as a backup to the Giants' four-time Pro Bowl tight end Jeremy Shockey, but was thrust into the spotlight late in the season when Shockey broke his leg.

It is apt that friends gathered at Rookies' in Monmouth to cheer their local son to victory. The Boss, as he is known, may be a rookie, but no one would have realized it from watching Sunday night's game.

His biggest mark in the Super Bowl came when he caught a 45-yard pass, setting up the Giants' first touchdown of the game to take a 10-7 lead in the fourth quarter.

Despite being about as far away from New York as one can be in the United States, the towns of Philomath and Monmouth couldn't be more proud.

BERKELEY'S ACTIONS OFFENSIVE

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you all know the Marine Corps Hymn. It starts, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we fight our country's battles in the air, on land, and sea."

Sadly, now the Marines have a new fight in the City of Berkeley. Recently, the city council voted to declare that a Marine recruiting station is "not welcome in the city."

To rub salt in the wound, the council then granted carte blanche to the radical protest group Code Pink. The disappointing and despicable actions of the Berkeley council are sad, shameful, and sickening. Some would call it treasonous.

Marines volunteer to serve their country and spill their blood for this Nation. Berkeley ought to show more respect for our Armed Forces.

The Marines' motto, "Semper Fidelis," is "Always Faithful." Although Berkeley may not be faithful to the Marines, I can guarantee you that the City of Berkeley wouldn't exist in a free country without the United States Marines.

The council needs to reverse this absurd decision. Their actions are offensive and obnoxious.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER), the whole number of the House is 430.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 30, 2008, at 9:15 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5104.

That the Senate passed S. 2571.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Wednesday, January 30, 2008:

H.R. 5104, to extend the Protect America Act of 2007 for 15 days

S. 2110, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 5, 2008, at 10:24 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res 25. That the Senate passed S. 550.

Appointments: Washington's Farewell Address

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2008, at 10:08 a.m.:

That the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4253.

Appointments: United States-Japan Inter-parliamentary Group conference

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO
COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1975 note), the order of the House of January 4, 2007, and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Commission on Civil Rights to fill the existing vacancy thereon and, effective February 12, 2008, the Speaker's reappointment of the same member to a 6-year term expiring February 11, 2014:

Mr. Todd Gaziano, Falls Church, Virginia

COMMUNICATION FROM CONGRES-
SIONAL AIDE, HON. WILLIAM J.
JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CON-
GRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Ericka Edwards-Jones,

Congressional Aide, the Honorable WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ERICKA EDWARDS-JONES,
Congressional Aide.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Angelle B. Kwemo, Legislative Director, the Honorable WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ANGELLE B. KWEMO,
Legislative Director.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-84)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

At www.budget.gov, Americans will find the budget of the Federal Government for Fiscal Year 2009. Two key principles guided the development of my Budget—keeping America safe and ensuring our continued prosperity.

As we enter this New Year, our economy retains a solid foundation despite some challenges, revenues have reached record levels, and we have reduced the Federal deficit by \$250 billion since 2004. Thanks to the hard work of the American people and spending discipline in Washington, we are now on a

path to balance the budget by 2012. Our formula for achieving a balanced budget is simple: create the conditions for economic growth, keep taxes low, and spend taxpayer dollars wisely or not at all.

As Commander in Chief, my highest priority is the security of the American people. So my Budget invests substantial resources to protect the United States from those who would do us harm. Continuing our Nation's efforts to combat terrorism around the globe, my Budget provides our men and women in uniform the tools they need to succeed in Afghanistan and Iraq, and it furnishes the resources needed for our civilians to help those nations achieve economic and political stabilization. My Budget also strengthens our overseas diplomatic capabilities and development efforts, advances our political and economic interests abroad, and improves the lives of people around the world.

Here at home, we are blessed to live in a country that rewards hard work and innovation. In our flexible and dynamic economy, people can pursue their dreams, turn ideas into enterprises, and provide for their families.

As we look back over the past 7 years, we see the economy has successfully responded to substantial challenges, including a recession terrorist attacks, corporate scandals, wars, and devastating natural disasters. It is a measure of our economy's resilience and the effectiveness of pro-growth policies that our economy has absorbed these shocks, grown for 6 straight years, and had the longest period of uninterrupted job growth on record. Yet mixed indicators confirm that economic growth cannot be taken for granted. To insure against the risk of an economic downturn, I will work with the Congress to pass a growth plan that will provide immediate, meaningful, and temporary help to our economy.

Americans have real concerns about their ability to afford healthcare coverage, pay rising energy bills, and meet monthly mortgage payments. They expect their elected leaders in Washington to address these pressures on our economy. So my Budget puts forth proposals to make health care more affordable and accessible, reduce our dependence on oil, and help Americans struggling to keep their homes.

Above all, my Budget continues the pro-growth policies that have helped promote innovation and entrepreneurship. I will not jeopardize our country's continued prosperity with a tax increase. Higher taxes would only lead to more wasteful spending in Washington—putting at risk both economic growth and a balanced budget.

As we work to keep taxes low, we must do more to restrain spending. My Budget proposes to keep non-security discretionary spending growth below 1 percent for 2009 and then hold it at that level for the next 4 years. It also cuts spending on projects that are not

achieving results—because good intentions alone do not justify a program that is not working.

One of the best ways to reduce waste and increase accountability is to make Federal spending more transparent. To help Americans see where their money is being spent, we have launched a website called www.USAspending.gov, and to help Americans see the kind of results they are getting for their money, we launched www.ExpectMore.gov. I invite all Americans to log on and find out for themselves how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent.

Billions of those tax dollars go to something called earmarks. Earmarks are special-interest items that are slipped into big spending bills or committee reports, often at the last hour, without discussion or debate. Last January, I asked the Congress to reform earmarks, and lawmakers took some modest steps in that direction. But they failed to end the practice of concealing earmarks in report language—and they continued to fund thousands of them. So I will take steps to advance earmark reform. I also call on the Congress to adopt the legislative line-item veto, which gives the legislative and executive branches a tool to help eliminate wasteful spending. Common-sense reform will help prevent billions of taxpayers' dollars from being spent on unnecessary and unjustified projects.

As we take these steps to address discretionary spending, we also need to confront the biggest challenge to the Federal budget: the unsustainable growth in entitlement spending. Many Americans depend on programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and we have an obligation to make sure they are sound for our children and grandchildren. If we do not address this challenge, we will leave our children three bad options: huge tax increases, huge deficits, or huge cuts in benefits. The longer we put off the problem, the more difficult, unfair, and expensive a solution becomes.

My Budget works to slow the rate of growth of these programs in the short term, which will save \$208 billion over 5 years. This step alone would reduce Medicare's 75-year unfunded obligation by nearly one-third. My Administration cannot solve this problem alone, though. We need a commitment from the Congress to reform and improve these vital programs so they can serve future generations of Americans.

In my 2009 Budget, I have set clear priorities that will help us meet our Nation's most pressing needs while addressing the long-term challenges ahead. With pro-growth policies and spending discipline, we will balance the budget in 2012, keep the tax burden low, and provide for our national security. And that will help make our country safer and more prosperous.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 4, 2008.